Appl. No. 10/034,218
Amdt. dated December 27, 2004
Reply to Office action of November 12, 2004

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A computer system, comprising:
a host processor;
a plurality of fan controllers coupled to said host processor; and
a fan coupled to each fan controller;
wherein the fan controllers are inter-connected by a fault signal which is used to transmit fault information between the fan controllers without host processor involvement; and
wherein each fan controller comprises a register that includes a bit that can be set by said host processor to cause said fan controller to not assert said fault signal upon detection of a fault.

2. (Original) The computer system of claim 1 wherein a fan controller receives said fault information from another fan controller and responds by changing the speed of its fan.

3. (Original) The computer system of claim 2 wherein said fan controller increases the speed of its fan.

4. (Original) The computer system of claim 1 further including a bridge disposed between said host processor and said fan controllers, said bridge also coupled to said fault signal.

5. (Currently amended) The computer system of claim 1 wherein ~~each fan controller includes a register which~~said register can be accessed by said host processor ~~can access~~ to determine which fan controller asserted said fault signal.

6. (Canceled).

7. (Canceled).

8. (Original) The computer system of claim 1 wherein a fan controller asserts said fault signal upon detection of a fault with respect to its fan.

9. (Original) The computer system of claim 1 wherein a fan controller contains a register which contains a value of the fan speed when said fault information from another fan controller is received.

10. (Currently amended) A fan controller, comprising:
an interface to controlling logic;
an interface to a fan which permits said fan controller to control the speed of said fan;
a programmable register accessible by a host processor via said controlling logic; and
an input/output fault signal adapted to be coupled to another fan controller through which fault information can be shared between fan controllers without host processor involvement;
wherein said register includes a bit that can be set by said host processor to cause said fan controller to not assert said input/output fault signal upon detection of a fault.

11. (Original) The fan controller of claim 10 wherein said fan controller can receive said fault information from another fan controller and responds by changing the speed of its fan.

12. (Original) The fan controller of claim 11 wherein said fan controller increases the speed of its fan.

13. (Original) The fan controller of claim 10 wherein said controlling logic comprises a bridge disposed between said host processor and said fan controller, and said fault signal adapted to be provided to said bridge.

14. (Currently amended) The fan controller of claim 10 wherein said register can be used by said host processor to determine whether the fan controller asserted said fault signal.

15. (Canceled).

16. (Canceled).

17. (Original) The fan controller of claim 10 wherein said fan controller asserts said fault signal upon detection of a fault with respect to its fan.

18. (Original) The fan controller of claim 10 further including a register which contains a value of the fan speed when said fault information from another fan controller is received.

19. (Currently amended) A method of controlling fans in a computer system having multiple fan controllers and a host processor, comprising:

detecting a fault with respect to a fan;

transmitting fault information from one fan controller to another without using said host processor and only if a register is written with a value that permits said fault information to be transmitted, otherwise, not transmitting said fault information; and

responding to said asserted fault signal if said fault information is transmitted.

20. (Currently amended) The method of claim 19 wherein ~~(b) transmitting~~ the fault information includes asserting a fault signal interconnecting at least one pair of said fan controllers.

21. (Currently amended) The method of claim 19 wherein ~~(c) responding~~ to said asserted fault signal includes increasing fan speed.